

S/N 10/032,700
Ref. No.: 659-911
Client Ref. No.: K-C 17154

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 7, 42 and 44 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 5, 8-10, 16, 21, 26, 29, 38 and 43 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:
a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;
a second body panel having a body side and a garment side; and
a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel
and comprising a refastenable portion formed on a garment side of said fastener
member, said refastenable portion releasably attached to said body side of said second
body panel, wherein said refastenable portion directly engages said second body
panel, wherein said fastener member comprises a first portion attached to said body
side of said first body panel and a second portion comprising said refastenable portion
releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, and wherein each of
said first and second body panels comprise an outboard side edge and wherein each of
said first and second portions comprise an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said
outboard edges of said first and second portions are positioned closer to said outboard
side edges of said first and second body panels, respectively, than are said inboard
edges of said first and second portions, and wherein said outboard edges of said first
and second portions are hingedly connected.

2. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 1
wherein said fastener member is fixedly attached to said body side of said first body
panel.

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3. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 2 wherein said fastener member is bonded to said body side of said first body panel.

4. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 3 wherein said fastener member is ultrasonically bonded to said body side of said first body panel.

5. (Currently Amended) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 1 ~~A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:~~

~~a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;~~

~~a second body panel having a body side and a garment side; and~~

~~a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel and releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said first portion of said fastener member is releasably attached to said body side of said first body panel.~~

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;

a second body panel having a body side and a garment side; and

a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel and comprising a refastenable portion formed on a garment side of said fastener member, said refastenable portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said refastenable portion directly engages said second body panel,

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wherein said fastener member comprises a first portion attached to said body side of said first body panel and a second portion comprising said refastenable portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel. ~~The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 6~~ wherein said first and second portions comprise first and second folds hingedly connected along a folded edge.

9. (Currently Amended) The refastenable absorbent garment-of claim 6 1 wherein said first portion is bonded to said second portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 6 1 wherein each of said first and second portions have a body side and a garment side, wherein said body sides of each of said first and second portions are in contact when said absorbent garment is in a folded configuration with said body sides of said first and second body panels in contact, and wherein said garment side of said first portion is attached to said body side of said first body panel and wherein said garment side of said second portion is releasably engaged with said body side of said second body panel.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 1 wherein said refastenable portion comprise an array of hook members.

13. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 9 wherein said refastenable portion comprises an adhesive.

14. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 1 wherein said first body panel is a rear body panel and wherein said second body panel is a front body panel.

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15. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 1 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

16. (Currently Amended) A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:
a first body panel having a body side, a garment side and an outboard side edge;
a second body panel having a body side, a garment side and an outboard side edge; and
a fastener member comprising first and second portions each having an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said first portion is attached to said body side of said first body panel and said second portion is releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said second portion directly engages said second body panel, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are hingedly connected, wherein said fastener member does not engage directly or indirectly in any way said garment side of either of said first or second body panels.

17. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 16 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is fixedly attached to said body side of said first body panel.

18. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 17 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is bonded to said body side of said first body panel.

19. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 16 wherein said first portion of said fastener member is releasably attached to said body side of said first body panel.

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20. (Previously Presented) The refastenable absorbent garment of claim 16 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

- providing a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;
- providing a second body panel having a body side and a garment side;
- providing a fastener member comprising a first and second portion each having a body side and a garment side, wherein said body side of said first portion faces said body side of said second portion and wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected;

- applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel; and

- releasably applying said body side of said second body panel directly to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member, wherein each of said first and second body panels comprise an outboard side edge and wherein each of said first and second portions comprise an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are positioned closer to said outboard side edges of said first and second body panels, respectively, than are said inboard edges of said first and second portions, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are hingedly connected.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprises fixedly securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

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23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said fixedly securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprising bonding said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel comprises releasably securing said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

providing a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;

providing a second body panel having a body side and a garment side;

providing a fastener member comprising a first and second portion each having a body side and a garment side, wherein said body side of said first portion faces said body side of said second portion and wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected ~~The method of claim 21~~ wherein said first and second

portions comprise first and second folds hingedly connected along a folded edge;

applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel; and

releasably applying said body side of said second body panel directly to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said first portion is bonded to said second portion.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

moving a first body panel web having a body side and a garment side in a machine direction;

moving a second body panel web having a body side and a garment side in a machine direction;

providing a plurality of fastener members each comprising a first and second portion, wherein said first and second portions each have a body side and a garment side;

successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web; and

successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web directly to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members, wherein said successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web and said successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web directly to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web and successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web directly to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members without directly or

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indirectly engaging in any way said garment side of either of said first or second body panel webs with any portion of said fastener members.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein each of said plurality of said first and second fastener members comprises a center region, and further comprising successively securing said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members, and successively cutting said first and second body panel webs and said first and second portions along said center regions of said first and second fastener members to form a plurality of discrete absorbent garments.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said successively securing said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively bonding said center region of said first portions of said fastener members to said center region of said second portions of said fastener members.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web comprises successively bonding said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said successively applying said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web comprises successively releasably securing said garment side of said first portions of said fastener members to said body side of said first body panel web.

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34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said second portions of said fastener members each comprise an array of hooks, and wherein successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively, releasably engaging said body side of said second body panel web with said array of hooks.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said second body panel comprises a landing material defining at least in part said body side thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said second portions of said fastener members each comprise an adhesive patch, and wherein successively, releasably applying said body side of said second body panel web to said garment side of said second portions of said fastener members comprises successively, releasably engaging said body side of said second body panel web with said adhesive patch.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said first and second body panels are integrally formed as portions of a one-piece body chassis.

38. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of using an absorbent garment comprising:

providing said absorbent garment comprising a first body panel having a body side and a garment side, a second body panel having a body side and a garment side, and a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel and comprising a refastenable portion formed on a garment side of said fastener member, said refastenable portion releasably attached directly to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said fastener member comprises a first portion

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attached to said body side of said first body panel and a second portion comprising said refastenable portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, and wherein each of said first and second body panels comprise an outboard side edge and wherein each of said first and second portions comprise an inboard and an outboard edge, wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are positioned closer to said outboard side edges of said first and second body panels, respectively, than are said inboard edges of said first and second portions, and wherein said outboard edges of said first and second portions are hingedly connected;

applying said garment to a user; and
disengaging said fastener member from said body side of said second body panel.

a fastener member attached to said body side of said first body panel and comprising a refastenable portion formed on a garment side of said fastener member, said refastenable portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said refastenable portion directly engages said second body panel,

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further comprising releasably reengaging said fastener member with said body side of said second body panel.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 wherein said fastener member comprises a first portion attached to said body side of said first body panel and a second portion releasably attached to said body side of said second body panel, wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected.

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41. (Previously Presented) The refastenable garment of claim 1 wherein said fastener member does not directly or indirectly engage in any way said garment side of either of said first or second body panels.

Claim 42 (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

providing a first body panel having a body side and a garment side;

providing a second body panel having a body side and a garment side;

providing a fastener member comprising a first and second portion each having a body side and a garment side, wherein said body side of said first portion faces said body side of said second portion and wherein said first and second portions are hingedly connected;

applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel; and

releasably applying said body side of said second body panel directly to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member; ~~The method of claim 21~~ wherein said applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel and said releasably applying said body side of said second body panel directly to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member comprises applying said garment side of said first portion of said fastener member to said body side of said first body panel and releasably applying said body side of said second body panel directly to said garment side of said second portion of said fastener member without directly or indirectly

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engaging in any way said garment side of either of said first or second body panels with any portion of said fastener member.

Claim 44 (Cancelled).